

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THE HA 01585 01 OF 02 290634Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 005689

P R 281551Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3259

INFO AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NL

SUBJ: PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS BOOST STOCK OF DEN UYL GOVERNMENT

REF: THE HAGUE A-44

1. SUMMARY: DEN UYL GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL COHESION AND STAYING POWER ENHANCED AS RESULT MARCH 27 PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. POLARIZATION TREND IN DUTCH POLITICS CONTINUES WITH LABOR AND OPPOSITION LIBERALS MAJOR WINNERS. NEW AMALGAM OF RELIGIOUS CENTER PARTIES (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC APPEAL) DID BETTER THAN PREDICTED. KVP SUSTAINED ONLY SLIGHT LOSS, REVERSING TREND OF LAST DECADE. ARP LOST AND OPPOSITION CHU GAINED. RADICALS GAINED CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN ANTICIPATED. D'66 AND DS'70 MASSIVE LOSERS AND ARE NOW NEGLIGIBLE FACTORS IN DUTCH POLITICS. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL CLAIMS HIS PARTY'S GAINS INDICATE NATIONAL SATISFACTION WITH HIS GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROGRAMS. LIBERAL OPPOSITION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THE HA 01585 01 OF 02 290634Z

LEADER WIEGEL ARGUES VVD'S SUCCESS PROVED THE CONTRARY.

PM'S ARGUMENT SEEMS MORE PERSUASIVE SINCE VVD SUCCESS APPEARS BE DUE PRIMARILY TO STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN DUTCH POLITICS, NOT DISSATISFACTION WITH PERFORMANCE OF CURRENT COALITION. END SUMMARY.

2. NEARLY 7 MILLION DUTCH VOTERS (ALMOST 75 PERCENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE WENT TO POLLS MARCH 27 TO ELECT MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES WHICH IN TURN SELECT MEMBERSHIP OF FIRST CHAMBER. OPPOSITION LIBERAL PARTY (VVD) AND LABOR PARTY (PRINCIPAL COALITION PARTNER) WERE MAJOR VICTORS. VVD GARNERED 1.2 MILLION VOTES OR ALMOST 19 PERCENT OF VOTES CAST, A GAIN OF 4.5 PERCENT OVER SHOWING IN SECOND CHAMBER ELECTIONS OF NOVEMBER 1972. VVD IS NOW NATION'S SECOND LARGEST PARTY. PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL'S LABOR PARTY RECEIVED 1.88 MILLION VOTES OR ALMOST 28 PERCENT OF VOTES CAST. LABOR'S TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 2 PERCENT BETTER THAN ITS SHOWING IN NOVEMBER 1972 ELECTIONS. LABOR'S PROGRESSIVE PARTNERS (D'66 AND PPR) DID NOT FARE AS WELL. D'66 WON ONLY 66,500 VOTES NATIONALLY OR .98 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CAST. IT LOST 45 OF THE 47 SEATS IT HELD IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES. THE RADICALS (PPR) GAINED SLIGHTLY RAISING THEIR SHARE OF THE VOTE TO 4.88 PERCENT OR .26 PERCENT OVET ITS SHOWING IN NOVEMBER 1972.

3. THE THREE CENTER RELIGIOUS PARTIES (KVP, ARP AND CHU), RUNNING ON ONE LIST (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC APPEAL) IN FIVE OF THE 11 PROVINCES), GARNERED 2.086 MILLION VOTES OR 30.90 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL CAST. THIS REPRESENTS A LOSS OF .16 PERCENT OVER THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS' COMBINED SHOWING IN THE NOVEMBER 72 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THE CHU, WHICH IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT COALITION, MADE A GAIN OF 1.2 PERCENT WHILE THE ARP LOST NEARLY 1.4 PERCENT. THE KVP HELD ITS LOSS TO .04 PERCENT, THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE INCURRED IN OVER A DECADE OF CONSTANT LOSSES. DS'70, PARTICIPATING IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME, MANAGED TO ATTRACT ONLY 100,000 ADHERENTS OR 1.48PERCENT. IT HAD RECEIVED 4.12 PERCENT IN THE NOVEMBER 72 ELECTIONS. THE COMMUNIST PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 THE HA 01585 01 OF 02 290634Z

OF THE NETHERLANDS (CPN) AND THE PACIFIST SOCIALIST PARTY, BOTH ON THE EXTREME LEFT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTURM, SUFFERED LOSSES. THE RIGHT WING RELIGIOUS SPLINTER PARTIES HELD THEIR OWN BUT THE FARMERS PARTY INCREASED THEIR SHARE OF THE VOTE FROM 1.92 TO 3.08 PERCENT PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HIT RECORD (DEN UYL IS IN THE OLIE) SUNG BY ITS LEADER, BOER KOEKOEK.

4. IF MARCH 27 PROVINCIAL ELECTION RETURNS WERE BASIS FOR DETERMINING REPRESENTATION IN SECOND CHAMBER, LABOR PARTY WOULD HAVE GAINED THREE SEATS, D'66 LOST FIVE AND THE RADICALS GAINED ONE FOR A NET LOSS OF ONE SEAT FOR THE PROGRESSIVE THREE. THE KVP WOULD HAVE LOST ONE, THE ARP LOST THREE AND THE CHU GAINED TWO SEATS FOR A NET LOSS OF TWO FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. THE VVD WOULD HAVE GAINED SEVEN SEATS (22 TO 29), DS'70 WOULD HAVE LOST FOUR (6 TO 2) AND THE CPN LOST TWO (7 TO 5).

5. AN OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL TOLD NATION EARLY THIS MORNING THAT VICTORY OF HIS PARTY (BEST SHOWING IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS SINCE WAR) INDICATES NATIONAL SATISFACTION WITH THE POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT. OPPOSITION LEADER HANS VIEGEL MAINTAINED HIS PARTY'S STRONG SHOWING (BEST IN THE ELECTION) INDICATED THE EXACT OPPOSITE. WIEGEL NOTED THAT "OLD FIVE" (PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE BIESHEUVEL GOVERNMENT, 1971-1973) WOULD AGAIN HAVE HAD A MAJORITY HAD ELECTIONS BEEN FOR THE SECOND CHAMBER. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE SHOWING OF BOTH THE CDA AND THE KVP. HIS PARTY CHAIRMAN, DE ZEEUW, TOOK SIMILAR LINE BUT SUGGESTED KVP'S SHOWING INDICATED WISDOM OF DECISION TO OPT FOR COOPERATION WITH LABOR. CDA CHAIRMAN PROFESSOR STEENKAMP (INFORMATEUR FOR BIESHEUVEL GOVERNMENT) WAS EUPHORIC ABOUT CDA SHOWING AND PREDICTED CDA COULD BECOME STRONGEST FORCE IN NATIONAL POLITICS. D'66 LEADERSHIP DEEPLY DEPRESSED BY ELECTION RESULTS, SAID PARTY WILL HOLD CONGRESS IN NEAR FUTURE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO DISBAND. PM SAID D'66'S POOR SHOWING WOULD NOT REQUIRE CHANGES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 THE HA 01585 01 OF 02 290634Z

CABINET-ONE D'66 MINISTER AND THREE STATE SECRETARIES. RADICALS (PPR) EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT IN SLIGHT GAIN WHICH RADICAL CHAIRMAN VAN DAM ATTRIBUTED TO PPR'S FAILURE TO "PRESENT ITS OWN FACE." ARP FLOOR LEADER AANTJES ADMITTED ARP'S LOSS WAS SERIOUS BLOW TO HIM PERSONALLY AND WOULD SPUR NEW FEUDING IN ARP BETWEEN HIS ADHERENTS AND THOSE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER BIESHEUVEL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THE HA 01585 02 OF 02 290639Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 005761

P R 281551Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3260

INFO AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1585

6. COMMENT: PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS ARE CONSIDERED REFERENDUM
ON PERFORMANCE OF COALITION. DEN UYL'S LABOR PARTY'S
STRONG PERFORMANCE INDICATES WIDE SPREAD
SATISFACTION WITH HIM AND HIS CABINET. KNP'S MINIMAL
LOSS SUGGESTS DECISION TO OPT FOR COOPERATION WITH
LABOR WAS CORRECT ALTHOUGH CHU, WHICH GAINED AT
EXPENSE OF ARP, CAN OBVIOUSLY ARGUE THE REVERSE.
DESPITE VVD'S CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IT SEEMS FARTHER
FROM PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT THAN EVER. WIEGEL'S
TALK OF A MAJORITY FOR THE "OLD FIVE" BEARS LITTLE
RELATIONSHIP TO ACTUAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN
NETHERLANDS AFTER NEARLY ONE YEAR OF DEN UYL GOVERNMENT.
PERFORMANCE OF CDA IN FIRST TEST AT POLLS CONSIDERABLY
BETTER THAN MANY ANTICIPATED, BUT ONE CAN ALREADY
DISCERN INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHIN KVP BETWEEN THOSE
LIKE FORMER PM DE JONG AND FONMIN SCHMELZER WHO
CLAIM CDA IS VEHICLE WHEREBY CONFESSORIAL PARTIES CAN
REGAIN PARAMOUNT POSITION IN DUTCH POLITICAL CONSTELLATION,
AND THOSE LIKE DE ZEEUW WHO FAVOR LONG TERM RED-ROMAN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THE HA 01585 02 OF 02 290639Z

COOPERATION AND GOVERNMENT. DESPITE CONTINUATION OF

POLARIZATION TREND, RELIGIOUS CENTER PARTIES CAN STILL
DETERMINE WHO RULES IN THE NETHERLANDS. PROVINCIAL
ELECTION RESULTS CONFIRM JUDGMENT EXPRESSED REFAIR
THAT DEN UYL COALITION CAN CONTINUE IN POWER PERHAPS
FOR FULL FOUR YEAR PERIOD. MORE DETAILED RESULTS,
ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS WILL BE REPORTED BY
AIRGRAM.
GOULD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL STABILITY, COALITION GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA01585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740068-1115
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974036/aaaaafmx.tel
Line Count: 231
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: THE HAGUE A-44
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS BOOST STOCK OF DEN UYL GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005